NOTICE OF THE NAMING AND RELEASE OF 'JEMEZ' NEW MEXICO FORESTIERA FOR USE IN RESOURCE CONSERVATION PLANTINGS

The USDA-Soil Conservation Service, the New Mexico State Highway Department, the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station announce the naming and release of 'Jemez' New Mexico forestiera (Forestiera neomexicana A. Gray) for commercial production and sale of seed and plants.

Origin: This variety originated from seed collected in the vicinity of Jemez Springs, New Mexico, in 1939. This seed was assigned the accession number A-12044 and was used to produce plants at the SCS Albuquerque Nursery. Seed was planted at the Los Lunas PMC in 1963 and several times thereafter. The live plants were field tested in Colorado, New Mexico, and in a few other states. Artificial selection pressures have not been applied to this variety.

Description: This much-branched, spreading, deciduous shrub attains heights of 12 feet or more under favorable conditions. Suckering from the base is common. The inner branches tend to interlace when plants are closely spaced in hedges.

The oblong leaves are grayish green in color. The bark is smooth and light gray on older stems, and smooth and light gray to brown on new growth.

The small, inconspicuous flowers are crowded in dense, sessile clusters in the axils of the previous year's leaves. Plants bloom from March to April before new leaves appear.

The oblong fruit is a drupe that is bluish black in color at maturity. The fruits ripen between June and September. Fruits adhere to the plants for a reasonable period of time, provided they are not picked by birds.

The plants have a tendency to form a tap-root system.

Performance: Good stands of 'Jemez' have always been obtained at the Los Lunas PMC under irrigation, except during 1963. It has been one of the best performing woody plants tested at the Los Lunas PMC. It is slightly susceptible to leaf-tip burning if sprinkler irrigated on hot sunny days.

It was included in over 81 plantings in Colorado and New Mexico between 1967 and 1976. Bare-root plants were used in 34 of these; potted plants were used in the others. Survival of this variety in the field was better than that of the majority of the other 66 woody plant species or accessions included in the various plantings. At least half of the 'Jemez' New Mexico forestiera plants survived in 43 percent of the 81 plantings.

Outstanding results can be expected when this variety is planted on favorable sites.

Area of Adaptation: Although this native specie is often found growing along stream or water courses, it has considerable drought tolerance. It grows at elevations of 3,000 to 7,000 feet on hillsides, mesas, and in moist valleys.

'Jemez' is adapted to much of Colorado and New Mexico; however, it needs supplemental water on the drier sites.

Uses: 'Jemez' New Mexico forestiera can be used in soil stabilization and beautification plantings, in windbreaks, on mine spoils and tailings, in roadside plantings, and along water courses. It is useful in landscape plantings, especially where supplemental water may be limited. Good quality formal hedges can be formed with this variety. It provides good cover for upland birds and small animals. The pulpy fruits are relished by several species of birds which often pick the fruits just before they are ripe.

Propagation: The method of propagating this variety will be by seed. The usual procedure is to plant the seed sometime during the fall, or at least prior to February, in soil which is kept moist. This provides natural stratification. A good stand of seedlings can be expected by May. Successful stands can also be obtained by stratifying the seed in moist sand in a cooler at about 38° F. for at least 30 days. The seed is then removed from the cooler and planted in moist soil during May.

Size of seedlings in nursery beds can be partially controlled by row spacing and amount of seed planted. The largest plants are obtained most quickly by seeding sparsely in rows spaced at least two feet apart Some seedlings produced in this fashion are large enough to use for bare-root stock after one growing season.

The seedlings can be used as bare-root material or they can be potted. Care must be used when digging larger plants in order to retain many of the smaller roots. Poor survival is likely to result if only the tap root is retained.

Source of seed and plants: Breeder seed will be maintained by the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Limited numbers of live plants will be available for establishing seed source nurseries. Seed and plants for these uses will be available from the Los Lunas PMC through resource conservation districts and New Mexico Crop Improvement Association. Seed will be on hand for the initial commercial production of plants.

Approved by:

Date February 2, 1978

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